



Firearms Strategy

Goal 1: Determine policies and implement procedural steps and best practices for handling firearm removal from domestic violence offenders and individuals prohibited from possessing them due to criminal domestic violence conviction.

Objectives	Procedural Steps	Responsible Parties/ Milestones	Intermediate Measures	Resources
1. Write policies to enhance the removal of firearms from batterers as prescribed by law.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policy statements in SPD, Court and City Attorney's Office related to surrender, seizure and forfeiture of firearms. Present policies to DVPC for adoption. 	<p>Lead: SPD, Seattle Municipal Court, SCADVU designated leaders</p> <p>Begin April 2005; end December 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy statements for the removal of firearms. Report on the review of policy statements by the DVPC. 	
2. Design and write procedural steps and corresponding forms to enhance the surrender, seizure and forfeiture of firearms for SPD.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop procedures regarding firearms at the scene. Determine procedures for patrol officers to: a) investigate the matter of firearms, b) obtain consent to view firearms, c) seize them when they are possessed illegally or when they are an instrumentality of a crime, and d) accept surrender of firearms. Formulate procedures for the victim support team to address firearms with victim. Ensure SPD has procedures for an active search component to respond to warrants related to firearm violations Determine all logistics related to storage and return of firearms. Continue to incorporate safety planning and information sharing related to firearms by system's advocates and share information with prosecuting 	<p>Lead: Seattle Police Department Domestic Violence Unit</p> <p>Begin January 2005; end December 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard operating procedures Report on the analysis of firearms surrendered, seized, and forfeited and thoroughness of information regarding firearms 	



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	attorney.			
3. Design and write procedural steps and corresponding forms to enhance the surrender, seizure and forfeiture of firearms for the City Attorney's Office.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop procedures for prosecuting attorney's office to ascertain the possession of firearms and documentation to present to Court. 2. Create procedures for responding to information regarding firearms and firearms regulation. 3. Respond to new information regarding firearms and firearms violations. 	<p>Lead: SCADVU/ Lead Criminal ACA</p> <p>Begin January 2005; end December 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedures established ▪ Updates on information and procedures 	
4. Design and write procedural steps and corresponding forms to enhance the surrender, seizure and forfeiture of firearms for the Court.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formalize procedures for personal recognizance screeners so that information about firearms is being collected and reported to the Court. 2. Establish within the Court a process for issuing firearms prohibition orders and monitoring offenders for compliance. 3. Develop procedures for Court staff to initiate and facilitate the judge's order. 4. Formalize procedures for probation counselors to monitor the offender's compliance regarding firearms and report violations. 5. Establish within the Court a process for responding to firearm violations 	<p>Lead: Seattle Municipal Court/ Designated Lead</p> <p>Begin January 2005; end December 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established procedures ▪ Updates on information and procedures 	



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5. Utilize existing database systems for access by SPD, the Court and the City Attorney's Office to promote exchange of firearm information and to coordinate across systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish initial procedures requiring all involved agencies to check for information related to firearms and domestic violence offenders. 2. Design monitoring database procedures. 3. Adhere to prescribed monitoring database procedures. 4. Establish and follow procedures for returning firearms as allowed by the Court, including provision that SPD check databases and orders 	<p>Lead: SPD, Seattle Municipal Court, SCADVU designated leaders</p> <p>Begin January 2005 – August 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting function set up in databases ▪ Reports on the monitoring of databases ▪ Brief reports on achievements or needed changes 	
6. Design and facilitate training tailored to each department for all criminal justice personnel to introduce new domestic violence goals, policies and procedures and data systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scope out training needs. 2. Design training and supplemental materials. 3. Create evaluation instrument to assess effectiveness of training. 4. Work with agency leads to create a post-training plan to guarantee the continued development of skills addressed in training. 5. Deliver training and plan for on going needs. 	<p>Lead: SPD, Seattle Municipal Court, SCADVU designated leaders</p> <p>Begin September 2005; end June 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training Plan ▪ Training agendas and evaluations 	
7. Create a Communication plan regarding the new City-wide firearms program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the interdisciplinary team meetings. 2. Encourage the linkage to community-based advocacy systems and programs for limited English speakers. 	<p>Lead: DSVPO</p> <p>Support: SPD, Seattle Municipal Court, SCADVU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Notes from meetings ▪ List of community based advocacy programs ▪ Brochures in targeted languages 	<p>Planning & Development Specialist: .1 FTE</p>



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	3. Provide updates to DVPC, City Council, City Agencies and other jurisdictions.	designated leaders Begin February 2005; end December 2005	▪ Update reports	Funding for translations*
8. Explore legislative change at the state level that will empower local law enforcement officials to confiscate firearms, consistent with federal law. <i>(18 U.S.C. & 19 U.S.C. Lautenberg Amendment)</i>	1. Include the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorney's (WAPA) and Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to gain support among state prosecutors for the proposed legislation. 2. Explore search and seizure and other concerns related to enforcement of civil protection orders. 3. Draft proposed legislation.	Lead: DSVPO Support: SPD, SCADVU; DVPC designated leaders OIR. Begin June 2005 End December 2009	▪ Notes from meetings ▪ Inter-agency agreement with WAPA, WASPIC ▪ Draft legislation ▪ New Law	Planning & Development Specialist: .1 FTE

Expected Outcomes

1. Increase validation of the number of firearms surrendered, seized and forfeited by 40 percent.
2. Written policies, procedures and forms for SPD, Court and CAO delineating the surrender, seizure and forfeiture of firearms.
3. Increase database systems utilization to ensure firearm information is obtained and to coordinate across systems by 40%.
4. Detailed training plan designed and delivered to introduce new domestic violence goals, policies and procedures and data systems.
5. Fewer domestic violence related homicides due to firearms.